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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/751,719	12/29/2000	Dennis M. Briddell	062891.0463	8327

7590 08/24/2005  
Baker Botts L.L.P.  
2001 Ross Avenue  
Dallas, TX 75201-2980

EXAMINER
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JONES, PRENELL P

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2667

DATE MAILED: 08/24/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Supplemental  
Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

09/751,719

Examiner

Prenell P. Jones

Applicant(s)

BRIDDELL ET AL.

Art Unit

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**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 8/18/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-20.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on \_\_\_\_\_ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
  1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

***Reason for Allowance***

1. Claims 1-20 are allowed over prior art.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Although the prior art of Stonebridge et al discloses assigning bandwidth dynamically in a system that utilizes multiple modules communicating via a control bus (host bus) and data bus (peer bus), they fail to teach or suggest preventing transaction from blocking other transactions on either of the peer transaction bus and the host transaction bus and avoid performance dependencies.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Prenell P. Jones whose telephone number is 571-272-3180. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00-5:30.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Chi Pham can be reached on 571-272-3179. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Prenell P. Jones

August 17, 2005



CHI PHAM  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINE  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800 8/18/08

### EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

3. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Charles Fish on August 16, 2005.

The application has been amended as follows: With respect to independent claims 1, 13 and 20;

1. (Currently Amended) A switching fabric for interfacing a host processor and a plurality of network modules, comprising:

a plurality of network module interfaces, each network module interface operable to communicate with one or more associated network modules over a module communication link, the plurality of network modules operable to communicate among one another over a peer transaction bus interconnecting the plurality of network module interfaces;

a processor interface operable to communicate with a host processor over a host communication link, the processor interface operable to communicate with the plurality of network module interfaces over a host transaction bus, the peer transaction bus being separate from the host transaction bus to allow communications between network

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~~modules without interfering with host processor communications~~ prevent transactions from blocking other transactions on either of the peer transaction bus and the host transaction bus and avoid performance dependencies therein.

13. (Currently Amended) A method for interfacing a host processor and a plurality of network modules, comprising:

providing a module communication link between a network module interface and associated network modules;

providing a peer transaction path between a plurality of the network module interfaces to allow communications between non-associated network modules;

providing a host communication link between a processor interface and a host processor;

providing a host transaction path between the processor interface and the plurality of network module interfaces to allow communications between the host processor and all network modules, the peer transaction path being separate from the host transaction path to ~~allow communications between network modules without interfering with the host processor communications~~ prevent transactions from blocking other transactions on either of the peer transaction bus and the host transaction bus and avoid performance dependencies therein.

20. (Currently Amended) A switching fabric for interfacing a host processor and a plurality of network modules, comprising:

means for providing communications with one or more associated network modules over a module communication link;

means for providing communications among non-associated network modules;

means for providing communications with a host processor over a host communication link;

means for providing communications between the host processor and all network modules, wherein non-associated network module communications are maintained separately from host processor to and from network module communications to prevent transactions from blocking other transactions associated with either the non-associated network module communications and the host processor to and from network module communications and avoid performance dependencies therein.